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24 August 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Director of Operations
Project Director of Materiel
Project Director of Administration
Project Contracting Officer
Project Security Officer

THROUGH : Deputy Project Director

SUBJECT : USAF U-2 Follow-On Program

REFERENCES : TS-158392, dated 26 July 1956
SAPC-8318, dated 2 August 1956
SAPC-8500, dated 14 August 1956
SAPC-8753, dated 22 August 1956

1. The first of the above references is my original memorandum on this subject. All of the others, which I have reviewed with care, are the comments on that memorandum. From this review I emerge with the following conclusions which might usefully be the basis of further discussion at an early staff meeting to make sure that we are all in general agreement.

2. Although several of the comments expressed at least mild misgivings about initiation of the SAC program at [REDACTED] there seems to be a general consensus that this is a wise procedure. On further reflection I remain fully convinced that it is. It will maintain a much tighter cloak of security around the equipment for four months longer than would be possible if the SAC program were started at an open base. It will enable [REDACTED] who I believe is to be the Commander of the SAC program when it is activated, to direct and control the SAC program from the beginning while still discharging his responsibilities as the Training Commander at [REDACTED]. This is a most effective means of providing a most desirable continuity between the two. I believe we can take this basic concept as being firmly adopted.

3. Several comments contained an objection to Edwards Air Force Base as a location for development and testing activities after [REDACTED] is closed

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down. I concur and believe we can take it as firmly decided that any such activities will be carried on at McDill Air Force Base or wherever the SAC program is formally activated when it leaves [REDACTED]

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4. One of the most troublesome problems raised by the proposed procedure is that of adequate housing space at [REDACTED]. I have asked the Director of Administration to address himself to this problem. He should ask the Commander of [REDACTED] to review the requirement for [REDACTED] personnel and that for personnel assigned to the base. The Commander in cooperation with [REDACTED] should be asked to review the need for a large number of SAC supply personnel after the base and Detachment C are fully staffed in this department. Lockheed has indicated that they will need to have only a small flight test crew of eight persons on the base in addition to those in training for Detachment C. Colonel Geary has already asked SAC to limit their personnel to some 18 over and above [REDACTED] present strength. I believe that if we are careful about numbers of people it should be possible to keep the total comfortably within [REDACTED] capacity until shortly before the USCM in the second half of October. Although we will probably have some two weeks of overcrowding, I believe this can be endured. It can be alleviated by limiting the number of visitors during the USCM and, if necessary, quartering some personnel at [REDACTED]

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5. I note the Security Officer's approval of the basic concept and the concurrence of the Director of Administration. Both recommend a closer and more effective contact between AQUATONE and the SAC program, including perhaps a Liaison Officer at Offutt Air Force Base and more orderly communications with SAC regarding the program. I fully concur with this general view, although some care will be required in working out such a closer relationship. I believe we should promptly discuss this matter with Colonel Geary. I am inclined to question, myself, the desirability of a Liaison Officer at Omaha, but at a minimum would think it useful to arrange for regular meetings with SAC representatives at intervals of one or two weeks (perhaps alternating between Washington and Omaha) on which occasions all outstanding business could be transacted. I will undertake to call a meeting with Colonel Geary on this matter.


RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Project Director

RMB:pas:gjg (22 Aug 56)

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